

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 21, 22, 25, 30; cancel claims 5, 8-9, 11, 17-20, 23-24, 26-29; and add new claims 31-36 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automated shopping, utilizing an order center connected to a data network, the method comprising the steps of:

placing a cordless handheld scanning wand in a vendor mode by activating a vendor mode button on said scanning wand, -said scanning wand having a memory element;

reading a machine-readable vendor identity code with a-said cordless handheld scanning wand means, said scanning means having a memory element;

storing said vendor identity code in a transaction file stored in said memory element;

placing said cordless handheld scanning wand in a user mode prior to reading said user identity code by activating a user mode button on said scanning wand;

reading a machine-readable user identity code with said cordless handheld scanning wand means;

storing said user identity code in said transaction file;

placing said cordless handheld scanning wand in a product mode by activating a product mode button on said scanning wand;

reading a machine-readable product identity code with said cordless handheld scanning wand means;

storing said product identity code in said transaction file;

connecting said cordless handheld scanning wand means to the order center over the data network by placing said scanning wand in a cradle module connected to the data network; and,

transmitting said transaction file over the data network to the order center.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as defined by claim 1 wherein said scanning wand ~~means~~ memory element has an order center data network address stored therein, the method further comprising the step of assigning said order center data network address to said transaction file, and wherein said transaction file is transmitted over said data network to said order center network address.

3. (Original) A method as defined by claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving said transaction file at the order center;
extracting said vendor identity code from said transaction file;
determining a destination vendor data network address, and
forwarding said transaction file to said destination vendor data network address over the data network.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as defined by claim 1 wherein said scanning ~~means comprises a handheld wand having two distal ends,~~ wand has a first distal end with ~~having~~ optical reader means for reading said vendor identity code, said user identity code, said product identity code, and a second distal end ~~having~~ with a connector, and wherein said vendor mode button, said user mode button, and said product mode button are arranged between said first and second distal ends.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method as defined by claim ~~5~~1 wherein said cradle module ~~having~~ has a communication module therein for connecting to the order center over the data network.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as defined by claim ~~5~~1 wherein said cradle module further comprises peripheral connection means for connecting to one or more of a printer and monitor~~a peripheral device~~.

8-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method as defined by claim ~~7~~1 wherein:
said scanning wand ~~means~~ comprises an elongated handheld wand having a first connector at a first distal end;
said cradle module ~~has~~having a top side with, ~~said top side having~~ a recess, and a second connector within said recess for mating with said wand first connector; and,
wherein said step of connecting said scanning ~~means~~ wand to said cradle module comprises placing said wand first distal end in said cradle module top side recess whereby said wand first connector operably engages said cradle second connector.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method as defined by claim ~~11~~1 wherein said handheld cordless scanning wand ~~means~~ further comprises:

~~vendor mode switching means for placing said scanning means in said vendor mode,~~ vendor mode indicator means for indicating said scanning wand ~~means~~ is in said vendor mode;

~~user mode switching means for placing said scanning means in said user mode,~~ user mode indicator means for indicating that said scanning ~~means~~ wand is in said user mode; and,

~~product mode switching means for placing said scanning means in said product mode,~~ product mode indicator means for indicating that said scanning ~~means~~ wand -is in said product identity mode.

13. (Currently Amended) A method as defined by claim 12 wherein:

~~said vendor mode switching means comprise an operable vendor mode button,~~ said vendor mode indicator means comprise a vendor mode indicator light on said scanning wand;

~~said user mode switching means comprise an operable user mode button,~~ said user mode indicator means comprise a user mode indicator light on said scanning wand; and,

~~said product mode switching means comprise an operable product mode button,~~ said product mode indicator means comprise a product mode indicator light on said scanning wand.

14. (Currently Amended) A method as defined by claim ~~11~~ wherein said scanning ~~means~~ wand further comprises order mode switching means for placing said scanning ~~means~~ wand in ~~said~~ an order mode, and wherein said scanning ~~means~~ wand further comprises order mode indicator means for indicating said scanning means is in said order mode.

15. (Original) A method as defined by claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the step of:

receiving a transaction confirmation signal with confirmation indicator means, said confirmation signal being sent from the order center upon receipt of said transaction file.

16. (Currently Amended) A method as defined by claim 15 wherein said confirmation indicator means comprise a sub-component of said cordless handheld scanning means wand.

17-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method as defined by claim 1 wherein said ~~scanner means~~ cordless handheld scanning wand further comprises an order status button switch means, and wherein the method further comprises the step of:

activating said order status button switch means to transmit an order status request over the data network to the order center, said order status request comprising at least said user identity code; and,

receiving an order status reply with a peripheral device attached to the data network.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for automated shopping from a catalogue, the method utilizing a data network, an order center connected to the data network, a cradle module connected to the data network, and an elongated cordless handheld scanning wand having a memory module, the method comprising the steps of:

placing the wand in a vendor mode by activating a vendor mode switch means on the wand, said vendor mode being confirmed by activation of a vendor mode indicator display located on said wand;

reading a catalog title ~~machine-readable user vendor identity code~~ from the catalog with optical reading means contained in a first distal end of the wand;

storing said catalog title ~~vendor identity code~~ in a transaction file in the wand memory module;

placing the wand in a user mode by activating a user mode switch means on the wand, said user mode being confirmed by activation of a user mode indicator display located on said wand;

reading a mailing label from the catalog ~~machine-readable user identity code~~ with said wand optical reading means;

storing said user identity code in said transaction file;

placing the wand in a product mode by activating a product mode switching means on the wand, said product mode being confirmed by activation of a product mode display located on said wand;

reading a machine-readable product code from the catalog with said wand optical reading means;

storing said product code in said transaction file;

connecting a first connector on the wand second distal end with a mating second connector on the cradle;

placing said wand in an order mode by switching an order mode switch on the wand, said order mode being confirmed by activation of an order mode display located on said wand;

transmitting said transaction file over the data network to the order center;
and,

receiving a confirmation signal with a confirmation indicator sent from the order center over the data network upon receipt of said transaction file.

23-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method for automated shopping from a catalogue, the method utilizing a data network, an order center connected to the data network, a cradle module connected to the data network, and an elongated wand having two distal ends and a memory module, the method comprising the steps of:

activating a vendor mode switch means located on the wand to place the wand in a vendor mode and to cause a vendor mode indicator light on said wand to be illuminated;

reading a machine-readable user vendor identity code from the catalog with optical reading means contained in the wand first distal end;

storing said vendor identity code in a transaction file in the wand memory module;

activating a user mode switch means located on the wand to place the wand in a user mode and to cause a user mode indicator light located on said wand to be illuminated;

reading a machine-readable user identity code with said wand optical reading means;

storing said user identity code in said transaction file;

activating a product mode switch means located on the wand to place the wand in a product mode and to cause a product mode indicator light located on said wand to be illuminated;

reading a machine-readable product code from said catalog with said wand optical reading means;

storing said product code in said transaction file;

connecting a first connector on the wand second distal end with a mating second connector on the cradle module;

transmitting said transaction file from the wand memory module through the cradle and over the data network to the order center;

~~receiving a confirmation signal with a printer connected to the cradle module, said confirmation signal~~ sent over the data network from the order center upon receipt of said transaction file;

activating an order status mode switch means located on the wand to place the wand in an order status mode and to cause an order status indicator light located on said wand to be illuminated;

transmitting an order status request from the wand through the cradle over the data network to the order center, said order status request comprising at least said user identity code; and,

receiving an order status response corresponding to said user identity code
| ~~with said printer connected to the cradle, said order status response sent from the order~~
center over the data network upon receipt of said order status request.

26-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for conducting automated shopping, the computer program product utilizing a catalog, a data network, a cradle module connected to the data network, a peripheral device connected to the cradle module, and an order center connected to the data network, the computer program product comprising computer executable instructions stored in a computer readable medium, the computer readable medium embedded in a handheld wand having a scanning means and a memory module, the instructions when executed causing the wand to:

enter into a vendor mode upon activation of a vendor mode switch
| ~~means~~located on the wand and cause a vendor mode indicator light located on the wand
to be illuminated;

read a machine readable vendor code from the catalog using the optical reader while in said vendor mode;

store said vendor code in a transaction file held on the wand memory module;

enter into a user mode upon activation of a user mode switch ~~means~~located
| on the wand and cause a user mode indicator light located on the wand to be illuminated;

read a machine readable user identity code from the catalog while in said user mode;

store said user identity code in said transaction file;

enter into a product mode upon activation of a product mode switch ~~means~~located on the wand and cause a user mode indicator light located on the wand to be illuminated;

read a machine readable product identity code from the catalog while in said product mode;

store said product identity code in said transaction file;

enter into an order mode upon activation of an order mode switch ~~means~~;

connect to the data network through the cradle module;

transmit said transaction file over the data network to the order center while in said order mode;

accept a confirmation signal transmitted over the data network from the order center; and,

output said confirmation signal over the peripheral device.

31. (New) A method as defined by claim 1 wherein the step of activating said vendor mode button causes a vendor mode indicator light located on said scanning wand to be illuminated, wherein the step of activating said user mode button causes a user mode indicator light located on said scanning wand to be illuminated, and wherein step of activating said product mode button causes a product mode indicator light on said scanning wand to be illuminated.

32. (New) A method as defined by claim 1 wherein the step of reading said machine-readable user identity code comprises reading a catalog mailing label with said scanning wand.

33. (New) A method as defined by claim 32 wherein said user identity code includes use user address data, and wherein the step of reading said catalog mailing label with said scanning wand includes reading said user address data from said mailing label.

34. (New) A method as defined by claim 1 wherein the step of reading said machine-readable vendor identity code with said scanning wand comprises reading a catalog name from a catalog cover.

35. (New) A method as defined by claim 1 wherein the step of reading a machine-readable product identity code with said scanning wand comprises reading an alpha-numeric product code with said scanning wand.

36. (New) A method as defined by claim 1 wherein the step of reading a machine-readable vendor identity code includes reading at least a first and a second machine-readable identity code, wherein the step of reading a product identity code includes reading at least a first and a second product identity code, said first product identity code corresponding to said first vendor identity code and said second product identity code corresponding to said second vendor identity code, wherein the steps of storing said product identity code and said vendor identity code in said transaction file includes storing said first and second product identity codes and said first and second vendor identity codes in said transaction file, and wherein the method further comprises the steps of receiving said transaction file at the order center, communicating said user identity code and said first product identity code to a first vendor corresponding to said first vendor identity code, and communicating said user identity code and said second product identity code to a second vendor corresponding to said second vendor identity code.